

REMARKS

Claims 4 and 9 recite allowable subject matter but are currently objected to because they depend from rejected base claims. Claim 4 has been rewritten in independent form and since claim 9 depends from claim 4, these claims should now be allowable.

Claims 1, 3 and 5-7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,320,250 to La. Applicants traverse because La does not disclose or suggest a plunger in contact with liquid material to be dispensed, as in amended claim 1.

La discloses a method of dispensing minute quantities of viscous material where the material is held in tank 10 and the material is forced from tank 10 by pressure source 13, which provides gas to the top of tank 10. The material then flows from chamber 12 via elongate horizontal passage 26 to a cylindrical chamber portion 28. The fluid is dispensed from chamber 28 through the downward expansion of a diaphragm 30 by a vertically reciprocal hammer 34. When the diaphragm is expanded by the hammer, the diaphragm pushes a predetermined amount of viscous material out of the chamber 12, and blocks the elongate passage 26.

La does not disclose the syringe and plunger of claim 1, and uses a diaphragm and a hammer instead. Further, currently amended claim 1 recites, among other things, the plunger is in contact with the liquid material to be dispensed. In contrast, La's hammer 30 does not contact the liquid material.


Further, dependent claims 6 and 7 are traversed separately as these claims recite additional features absent from La. With respect to claim 7, La does not disclose a liquid material supply valve or a liquid material discharge valve. With respect to claim 6, La does not disclose a control means for applying pressure to the liquid material in the liquid material tank or a means for controlling pressure source 13. Accordingly, the rejection of claims 1, 3 and 5-7 under §102(b) based on La is respectfully traversed.

Claim 8 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over La in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,570,815 to Ramsay. The reasons asserted above with respect to the §102 rejection are reasserted here as neither La nor Ramsay disclose a syringe or plunger, where the plunger contacts the liquid material to be dispensed. Accordingly, the §103 rejection is respectfully traversed.

For all of the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that this Application is in condition for allowance, which is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney if an interview would expedite prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

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